REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application at the time the Office Action was mailed. Claims 4, 7, and 10 were objected to. Claims 1-12 were rejected. No claims were allowed.

By this amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-12 have been amended. New claim 13 has been added and no claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 7 and 10 were objected to due to typographical errors. As claims 4, 7 and 10 have been amended to correct these errors, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan et al., (US Patent 5,190,970) in view of Endo et al., (US Patent 5,569,464) and in further view of Steffen (US Patent 4,693,996). In particular the Office Action states:

> Pan teaches the use of two pharmaceutically active agents provided in combination (see abstract). Pan further teaches same when one of the active agents is an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (see abstract) and when the two are mixed in a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid vehicle in appropriate amounts for oral administration (see column 12 lines 17-22).
>
> Pan does not teach the inclusion of osmotic-adjusting agents or buffering agents in the composition, nor does Pan teach the composition where the second active agent is a diuretic, cardiac glycoside, beta blocker, nitrate, antiplatelet, vitamin, nutroceutical, or calcium channel blocker.

Endo teaches an aqueous pharmaceutical composition delivery form comprising the buffer sodium citrate, and vitamins (see column 3 lines 15-26 and column 4, line 41). Endo also teaches the inclusion of pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the hydroxy acids, which includes sodium chloride and potassium chloride (see column 5, lines 16-18).

Steffen teaches aqueous pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of heart-related ailments that may comprise agents other than the active agents (see, for example, column 3, lines 21-22 and column 4, lines 55-68). Steffen further teaches such compositions in an oral unit dosage form, wherein the dosage form is prepackaged (see column 5, lines 1-7). Steffen also teaches a method of making the composition by mixing the active agents and then adding the other agents in appropriate quantities (see column 4, lines 60-63).

Independent claims 1-3 from which the remainder of the claims depend, have been amended to recite a prepackaged pharmaceutical composition being packaged in a plurality of separate dispensers, each of the dispensers comprising a single day's dose of the at least first and at least second pharmacologically active agents. Prepackaged daily dosing provides a patient with greater simplicity, confidence and compliance at a decreased cost. Support for this limitation can be found in the specification on lines 6-9 of page 11, and lines 12-14 of page 12. Because Steffen, Pan et al., and Endo et al. do not teach or suggest this limitation, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The currently pending claims before the examiner are supported throughout the specification and are patentable over the prior art. No new matter has been added. This application is now in full condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 50-3110.

The examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this amendment, or if the examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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